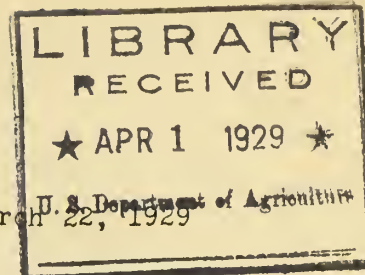


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Washington



March 22, 1929

FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

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NOTES ON THE EUROPEAN APPLE MARKETS

Moderation in weather affects demand

The general moderation in the weather throughout western Europe and Great Britain has had a stimulating affect on the fruit markets, and prices paid for both barreled and boxed apples in Liverpool have experienced a marked upward tendency, according to reports received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Mr. Edwin Smith the Bureau's Fruit Specialist in Europe. With the rather sudden appearance of spring-like weather early in March, prices paid for American apples on the Liverpool auctions immediately showed an upward trend, due largely to the keen demand from the Continent. German buyers as well as buyers from Paris and Antwerp visited the Liverpool auction, picking up lots of barreled apples where the condition of the fruit warranted its transshipment to Continental markets, states Mr. Smith.

Continental markets

The relatively good prices prevailing in Hamburg during the first two weeks of March indicate that a return to normal conditions of transport will allow accumulated port supplies to be distributed to country points without bad effects upon the market, states Mr. Smith. Copenhagen, which had been frozen up for several weeks, was able to get in supplies of Washington Winesaps and Oregon Newtowns for an auction sale on Tuesday, March 5. Copenhagen pays practically the same price for sizes running as small as 216's as can be secured for 175's and the prices paid at the auction on March 5 were considered most satisfactory, according to Mr. Smith.

Oregon Newtown situation

A welcome upward swing in prices has been realized for Oregon Yellow Newtowns at Hamburg, according to Mr. Smith. The color of the Oregon Newtown is turning with a little more yellowish tint and this is destined to assist sales in Germany. As yet the Newtown is not bringing prices as high as Winesaps throughout the Continent, but Ortleys seem to maintain their superior position, so that there still are hopes for the Newtown.

Mr. Smith states that the quantities of Albermarle Pippins from Virginia being offered at the auction sales in Great Britain are greater than he has witnessed during his entire service in Europe. This fruit is selling at from 25/ to 33/ - (\$6.08-\$8.03) per barrel and no doubt has considerable relation to the price which the trade is willing to pay for



boxed Newtowns. The larger proportion of Albermarle Pippins thus far sold have been of U. S. No. 2 and unclassified grades. It is currently reported that U. S. No. 1 grade Albermarles are being held for prices which should either restrict supplies or cause an appreciation in European values.

#### New York Rhode Island Greenings

This variety has been arriving in exceptionally splendid condition, states Mr. Smith. It has been difficult to secure prices for Rhode Island Greenings which would show much profit over costs. The difficulty exists in the fact that cooking apples have a rather inflexible retail price. The top price which retailers desire to place on cooking apples is 8 cents per pound. The retail trade is very slow to make purchases when it is necessary to ask a higher retail price. They can maintain a retail price of 8 cents a pound or less until the auction price goes above 28/- (\$6.81) per barrel. When the auction price goes above this figure they do not show the same keenness in buying as they would in the case of dessert varieties.

#### Late York Imperials

The supplies of York Imperials have now dwindled to a very few cars each week. At Liverpool on Wednesday, March 7, Mr. Smith inspected a small shipment from Pennsylvania and also one from Virginia. The fruit was in excellent condition for that time of year and realized 31/- (\$7.54) for the tight barrels. Very little evidence of scald was to be found in either shipment. Fruit from both sources was well packed in shredded oil paper.

#### Wire barrel hoops

A good sized shipment of barrels from western New York arrived at the Liverpool docks during the first week of March in which the barrels had steel wire hoops at the quarter. A higher percentage of these hoops was intact and in place than is to be observed with wooden hoops. As a matter of fact, very nearly 100 per cent of the wire hoops were in place, whereas it is still a common sight to see wooden hoops which have slipped down on the barrels, or which have been lost. Mr. Smith states that as yet he has not witnessed any shipments with wire quarter hoops which would condemn their use for export packages.

#### Freezing injury in New York barrels

Despite the extremely cold weather in the Northern Hemisphere during the past winter very little evidence of freezing injury was observed during transit according to Mr. Smith. An instance of this came to his attention in Liverpool on Wednesday, March 7 in Rhode Island Greenings from western New York State. The injury was slight and merely caused a few watery bruises here and there in some of the barrels and resulted in their arriving slightly slack.

